

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124065

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 13243 ACTION SECSTATE 23 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13243

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC

REF: STATE 281525 (1974)

1. QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL GAVE ME ON MAY 23
FRENCH RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC.

2. TEXT OF FRENCH DRAFT NOTE FOLLOWS::

"MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

"J'AI L'HONNEUR DE ME REFERER AUX RECENTES CONVERSATIONS
ENTRE REPRESENTANTS DU GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS ET
DU GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS, RELATIVES AUX CONSEQUENCES
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FINANCIERES DES DECISIONS PRISES PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT

FRANCAIS EN APPLICATION DE SES AIDE-MEMOIRE DES 10 ET 29 MARS 1966, QUI ONT CONDUIT AU RETRAIT DES PERSONNELS MILITAIRES, APPROVISIONNEMENTS ET EQUIPEMENTS AMERICAINS DU TERRITOIRE FRANCAIS.

"LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PROPOSE QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS ACCEPTE LA SOMME DE 100 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS, PAYABLE EN CINQ VERSEMENTS EGAUX DE 20 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS CHACUN, A PARTIR DU MOIS DE JUIN 1975 ET AU MOIS DE JUIN DES QUATRE ANNEES SUIVANTES, EN REGLEMENT GLOBAL DES RECLAMATIONS FINANCIERES SOUMISES AU GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS DANS SA NOTE DU 17 SEPTEMBRE 1968 ET SON MEMORANDUM DU 14 JANVIER 1969. LES VERSEMENTS SERONT EFFECTUES AUPRES DE M. (QUALITE OFFICIELLE), COMPTE NO. . . ., A PARIS (OU WASHINGTON). CETTE TRANSACTION FORFAITAIRE INTERVIENT EN APPLICATION DES DISPOSITIONS FIGURANT AUX ACCORDS FRANCO-AMERICAINS DU 27 FEVRIER 1951, DU 4 OCTOBRE 1952 ET DU 8 DECEMBRE 1958.

"SI CES PROPOSITIONS RENCONTRENT L'AGREMENT DE VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT, LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PROPOSE QUE LA PRESENTE LETTRE ET LA REPOSE CONSTITUENT UN ACCORD QUI ENTRERA EN VIGUEUR A LA DATE DE LA DERNIERE SIGNATURE."

3. FRENCH TEXT QUOTED ABOVE SEEMS TO BE WORD-FOR-WORD TRANSLATION OF OUR DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES AS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 REFTTEL, WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES:

-- FIRST, "MARCH 1, 1975" DATE FOR FIRST PAYMENT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO "THE MONTH OF JUNE" AND SUCCEEDING PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE IN SUCCEEDING MONTHS OF JUNE ACCORDING TO FRENCH PROPOSAL.

-- SECOND, FRENCH DRAFT PROPOSES SPECIFIC NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND PLACE FOR RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS.

-- THIRD, FRENCH TEXT REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THREE
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OF THE FOUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER WHICH OUR FACILITIES WERE DEVELOPED OR CONSTRUCTED IN FRANCE. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, REFER TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OF JUNE 17, 1953 -- WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN OUR NOTE VERBALE NO. 290 OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1968, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER THREE FRANCO-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS.

-- FINALLY, FRENCH TEXT PROVIDES THAT AGREEMENT
WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE DATE OF THE LAST
SIGNATURE.

4. FIRST FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS REASONABLE, GIVEN PASSAGE
OF TIME SINCE WE PRESENTED OUR ORIGINAL DRAFT. SECOND
FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS USEFUL SPECIFICATION OF METHOD FOR
PAYMENTS. IF WASHINGTON PREFERS TO SPECIFY TWO ACCOUNTS
-- RATHER THAN THE ONE ACCOUNT SUGGESTED BY FRENCH
DRAFT -- WE THINK THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH FRENCH
WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY. REGARDING THIRD FRENCH
CHANGE, QUAI WORKING LEVEL TELLS US THAT FRENCH TEXT
DROPPED REFERENCE TO U.S. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AGREE-
MENT BECAUSE -- IN OPINION OF FRENCH -- THAT ACCORD WAS
AN OFFSPRING OF THE EARLIER SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS
AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 6, 1950, WHICH, IN TURN WAS
REPLACED BY THE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT OF
DECEMBER 8, 1958. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO FRENCH, AGREE-
MENT OF DECEMBER 8, 1958, SUBSUMES THE U.S. MILITARY
HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, QUAI TELLS US THAT
THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD
PREFER TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO JUNE 17, 1953,
AGREEMENT, I.E., MENTIONING FOUR RATHER THAN THREE
AGREEMENTS. FOURTH FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS TO BE REASONABLE
CLARIFICATION.

5. DE COURCEL TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE FRENCH
"ABOUT A MONTH" TO COMPLETE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIG-
NATURE AND FIRST PAYMENT, ONCE QUAI HAD RECEIVED NOTIFI-
CATION FROM USG THAT FRENCH TEXT WAS ACCEPTABLE. WE
WOULD EXPECT THAT MINOR CHANGES ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE
MENTIONED IN PARA 4 ABOVE, WOULD NOT CAUSE UNDUE DELAY
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IN COMPLETION OF FRELOC SETTLEMENT. SHOULD DEPARTMENT
WISH TO MAKE MORE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES AT THIS TIME, HOW-
EVER, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL PROBLEMS
THAT MIGHT PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN FINAL SIGNATURE
OF NOTES. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO RECEIVE FIRST FRENCH
PAYMENT BEFORE 1 JULY 1975, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE DEPART-
MENT'S COMMENTS TO GIVE TO FRENCH EARLY NEXT WEEK.
RUSH

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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